

# Maine Tree Farm NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

A publication of the Maine Tree Farm Committee

Issue No. 2



## News Update: *Maine Tree Farmers Win 2014 Northeast Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer*



Bambi Jones, Tracy Moskovitz (left, right)

It's official! The 2014 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year (Tracy Moskovitz and Bambi Jones—founders of the Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC)) have gone on to win the Northeast Regional award! Tree Farm Inspectors from the national awards committee who visited the property commented that it was unlike any Tree Farm they had ever inspected.

Interested to learn about the management and outreach that makes this Tree Farm so unique? You can do just that at this year's field day on **Saturday, Sept. 6th.** See a program outline below—view a full schedule and directions at [www.maintreefarm.org](http://www.maintreefarm.org). *We hope to see you there!*

### 2014 Field Day Program

**8:30am - ongoing**      **Registration**

**8:50am**                      **Welcome** (Main Pavilion)

*Exhibitors' tent, self-guided tours, equipment demos, music, children's games, and refreshments all day.*

**9:00 - 11:00am**

#### Speaker Series

*Managing for Young Forest Wildlife* - Deb Perkins (Wildlife Biologist)

*Foresters for the Birds* - Sally Stockwell (ME Audubon), Elise Tillinghast (Northern Woodlands)

*Non-Timber Forest Products* - David Fuller (UMaine Ext)

*HVNC: Our Model*

#### Guided Forest Walks

*Bog Tour* - Hildy Ellis (KLSWCD)

*Forestry* - Barrie Brusila (Mid-Maine Forestry)

*Managing for Birds* - Sally Stockwell (ME Audubon)

*BMPs/Trail Construction* - Keith Kanoti (MFS)

*Wildflowers* - Wanda Garland (Naturalist)

*Mushrooms* - Roger Monthey (USFS)

*Pruning Your Trees* - Paul Miller

#### Forestry Demos

*HVNC's Low-Impact Approach; Horse Logging* (NE Biological Woodsman); *Cut to Length Harvesting* (Bill Guest)

**11:45am**                      **Lunch**—\$6 or \$10 options from two different vendors

**12:15pm**                      **Lunch speaker program**, including remarks from Tom Martin - American Forest Foundation CEO

*3 Perspectives on Woodlands:* John Piotti -ME Farmland Trust; Willard Morgan -Chewonki; Karin Tilberg -Forest Society of ME

Awards/raffle/doorprizes

**1:15pm**                      Repeat of Guided Forest Walks & Forestry Demos

SWOAM/Tree Farm Field Day officially ends with the 1:15 scheduled walks, but everyone is encouraged to stay and enjoy all that Hidden Valley Nature Center has to offer. As a special treat, HVNC's annual music festival known as "Live Edge" will begin at 2:00 and continue to 6:30pm.

#### Location:

Hidden Valley Nature Center

131 Egypt Rd, Jefferson



### *We want to hear from you!*

Have questions about the management of your woodlot or a story about your Tree Farm that you would like to share? Submit stories, photos, and questions to Jennifer Hushaw (Program Coordinator) at [jhushaw@maintreefarm.org](mailto:jhushaw@maintreefarm.org) or 207-221-2512.

# Tree Farmer Profile

## Beauregard Woodlands (Old Town, Maine)

**Description:** Beauregard Woodlands is a 120 acre woodlot in west Old Town, Maine. The parcel is bisected by Judkins Brook and includes approximately 20 acres of forested wetland. Primary timber types of the remaining acreage are softwood (red spruce, balsam fir, eastern hemlock and eastern white pine) and mixed hardwood-softwood (red maple, bigtooth and quaking aspen, yellow and gray birch and northern red oak).

### Owner-Stewards:

Larry and Barbara Beauregard are residents of Brewer and purchased the Old Town woodlot in 1981. Larry, a retired medical geneticist, had no background in forestry or forest management. However, since his professional retirement, Beauregard Woodlands, forest management, and natural science have become his avocation.



Beginning in 2004, Larry and Barbara engaged their consulting forester, David Wardrop, to help them develop a management plan, apply for cost-share support, and design a harvest with the goal of improving timber quality through selective harvesting in areas of dense and mature growth. Since the harvest, they have focused on stand improvement through thinning and pruning.

In addition to a focus on the timber resources of their property, the Beauregard family have also created an extensive network of trails, established a maple sugaring operation, and engaged in wildlife enhancement efforts, including setting up nesting boxes for birds in the wetland areas.



Read the full article and view additional photos online at:

[http://mainetreefarm.org/newsletter/newsletter\\_Issue2\\_2014.html#TFprofile](http://mainetreefarm.org/newsletter/newsletter_Issue2_2014.html#TFprofile)

# Tree Farm Standard Highlight

**#1: Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry**  
*Forest owner demonstrates commitment to forest vitality by developing and implementing a sustainable forest management plan.*

### By Andy Shultz

There is a good reason that developing a written forest management plan (FMP) is the first standard---your written plan should contain the basic information with respect to all the other standards and it can be a living document that tells the story of your Tree Farm's past, present and future.

The scope and scale of the document should be in line with the scope and scale of your Tree Farm. You can write your own plan, or work with a licensed forester to prepare one for you. Involving a forester will add to your knowledge about your woods while incorporating professional expertise and experience. In any event, it's a great idea to actively participate in the process; after all it's your plan.

Along those lines, you can use the template provided to "do it yourself" at My Land Plan<sup>1</sup>. You can also participate in the Maine Forest Service's WoodsWISE cost-share incentives program, where you work with a Stewardship Forester. Stewardship Foresters<sup>2</sup> are Maine-licensed foresters who attend annual training and information sessions, making them eligible to prepare a particular type of FMP known as a Woodland Resource Action Plan (WRAP). WRAPs meet or exceed the Tree Farm standards for a FMP.

There may also be financial assistance for FMPs from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Check with your local USDA Service Center<sup>3</sup> for program requirements.

As a Tree Farmer, your FMP must include information about forest health, soil & water protection, special sites, invasive species, consideration of Integrated Pest Management, and the presence (if any) of forests with high conservation value. Other *suggested* items are: wetlands, desired wildlife species, recreation, aesthetics, biomass, carbon sequestration, and any use of prescribed fire (rare in Maine).

Many confuse the American Tree Farm System™ with the Tree Growth Tax Law, the Maine-specific current use property tax program for working forest land. They are not the same, but are similar in requiring a FMP.

If you need a new or updated FMP, and you're not sure how to proceed, check with your Tree Farm Inspector or contact the Maine Tree Farm Coordinator. You can also call the Maine Forest Service Landowner Outreach Forester at (207) 287-8430 to find out about the WoodsWISE Incentives program.

The full ATFS Standards, Performance Measures and Indicators can be seen at: [www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org)

<sup>1</sup> [www.mylandplan.org](http://www.mylandplan.org)

<sup>2</sup> [www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/policy\\_management/wwi/stew\\_foresters\\_web.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/policy_management/wwi/stew_foresters_web.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>



# ATFS Certification: What Does it Mean to Us?

By **Larry Beauregard**

When my wife, Barbara, and I purchased our 120-acre woodlot in 1981, we had long-term investment and a source of firewood in mind. We had no clear objectives about what we wanted to do with the land and the timber growing on it.

However, over the next 20 years, we slowly developed a keen appreciation for exactly what we had. We began to formulate objectives that reflected our interest in forest sustainability and looked forward to working with our forestland not only for us, but also for the benefit of our children and grandchildren. We decided that working through Tree Farm might help us to meet our objectives.

Of course, when we first read the ATFS certification standards, we had what the younger generation would call an OMG moment. How could we possibly satisfy all of those criteria? That is when our consulting forester, Dave Wardrop, came into the picture. Based on his knowledge and experience, he was able to help us to clarify our own objectives and to develop and implement a sound forest management plan. Beauregard Woodlands did become a Certified Family Tree Farm in 2005.



*We are often asked if there is any cost associated with certification and if the benefits gained are worth any additional costs. In our experience, the answer to both questions is “yes”.*

The increased detail required in our management plan was associated with a greater expense for the services of our consulting forester than might be expected for an adequate but bare-bones plan. We also expect that the extra effort required of contractors during the harvesting phase will likely come at a price. However, the detailed plan required for ATFS certification put us in a very competitive position for participating in state and federal cost-share programs. By taking advantage of these programs, we have been able to recoup a percentage of our woodlot expenses. Additionally, we have entered our woodlot under the Tree Growth Tax program to reduce our overall property tax liability.

From our personal perspective, certification provides us with recognition that our efforts do meet the requirements of responsible and sustainable forest management. It also provides some expectation of a favorable return on the significant investment of time and money. From a buyer perspective, certification provides some guarantee that our forest products meet third-party criteria for sustainability.

*We are proud to be Certified Family Tree Farmers.*

Read the full article at: [http://www.maintreefarm.org/newsletter/newsletter\\_Issue2\\_2014.html#certification](http://www.maintreefarm.org/newsletter/newsletter_Issue2_2014.html#certification)



## Inspector Event Recap

The Maine Tree Farm Committee recently hosted an Inspector Recognition event, which included a field tour and dinner at the Sea Dog restaurant in Bangor. The event was a thank you to the Tree Farm Inspectors who donate their time and expertise to support the program and promote responsible forest management.

To read more, access the online version of the newsletter at:

[http://maintreefarm.org/newsletter/newsletter\\_Issue2\\_2014.html](http://maintreefarm.org/newsletter/newsletter_Issue2_2014.html)

## Volunteer Opportunity:

We need volunteers to help staff the Tree Farm booth and educate others about the Tree Farm Program, at the Fryeburg and Common Ground Fairs this fall. Sign-up to volunteer on-line at: [www.maintreefarm.org/events.html](http://www.maintreefarm.org/events.html) and get a free ticket!

# 2014 Maine Tree Farm Committee

## Chair

Dick Morse, South China, ME

## Vice Chair

Paul Larrivee, Sappi Fine Paper

## Secretary

Patty Cormier, Maine Forest Service

## Treasurer

Dan Mahns, American Forest Management

*Note: This printed newsletter is an abbreviated version of our online newsletter. You can access the online version or subscribe today at [www.mainetreefarm.org/newsletter.html](http://www.mainetreefarm.org/newsletter.html).*

*Switching to an electronic version will help us save on printing and postage costs, and stretch our limited budget even further.*

*~ Thank you!*

Be sure to check out the *newly updated* Maine Tree Farm Website! [www.mainetreefarm.org](http://www.mainetreefarm.org)



## Save the Date! Upcoming Events...

Bucksport Bay Forest Festival ( <i>Bucksport</i> ).....	July 25 - 26, 2014
Maine Farm Days ( <i>Clinton</i> ).....	Aug. 20 - 21, 2014
Tree Farm/SWOAM Field Day ( <i>at Hidden Valley Nature Center</i> ).....	Sept. 6, 2014
Common Ground Country Fair.....	Sept. 19 - 21, 2014
Fryeburg Fair.....	Sept. 28 - Oct. 5, 2014

*program of the American Forest Foundation*

*The American Tree Farm System is a*

Augusta, ME 04332

PO Box 5470

American Tree Farm System  
Maine Tree Farm Committee

